

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
December 12, 2011**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Sue Ramsburg	David Gray, Comm		
Hal Ehart	Pat Rosensteel	Jim Judd		
Dennis Ford	Carolyn True	Debra Savageau		
Millard Haines				
Diane Julian				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Mary Rice				
Virginia Skelley				
Pat Tudor				
Robert Wannemacher				
Steve Wilhide				
Dan Yeeles				

- I. **Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – No changes were made to the agenda.

- IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.
- V. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm stated she attended a FACT meeting this morning. There is still talk of reviewing grant funded programs at the county level in January.

- VI. Spring Forum, Hal Ehart** - Hal is requesting volunteers to help plan this event. The Forum has become a yearly occurrence which allows seniors to interact with the BoCC. Once the committee has been established a date will be set to get on the BoCC calendar. Five questions will be developed to be presented to the BoCC and time will be allowed for public comment. The questions should be developed with the information discussed at recent meetings with the BoCC. The committee will also do some advertising for this event. Contact Hal if you have any ideas or suggestions for the forum. It is important to have continued exposure to the BoCC. Five members of the CoA volunteered to work on this project; Ginny, Hal, Dennis, Mary, and RaeAnn.

Planning Study, Pat Rosensteel – There will be an initial meeting tomorrow morning at 9am. It will be challenging to discover what a planning study is versus a needs assessment. Louise presented background information for new members of this commission. At the last meeting with the BoCC, the financial wording was taken out to make the request more acceptable.

Update regarding employee benefits public hearing, Steve Wilhide – Nothing new to add on this hearing.

- VII. CoA Strategic Plan review, Louise Lynch** – A goal by goal review was done of the CoA Strategic Plan for 2009-2013. There was a suggestion to meet more often with the BoCC. There is a need to meet with the municipal and community leaders. There has been ample participation in community events. However, the general public does not always comprehend the separation between the CoA and the Dept of Aging. This should be emphasized at future events.

The needs assessment objective is still outstanding. This needs to remain a priority for this Commission. The second objective for goal two is to identify emerging minority groups. There is a senior from the African American community who is interested in serving on the CoA. This would make for a more diverse Commission although it is not a requirement in the Commission's by-laws. It would possibly bring the

issues of the African American aging community to the forefront. There is still a need for more diversity geographically.

There has been some work regarding the third goal of providing community outreach. Members from the ministerial community attended and participated at one meeting this year. Identifying community resources could be one part of the planning study. There should be more interaction between the CoA and other senior agencies. This Commission has liaisons with several agencies and they routinely bring information to meetings. There is still a need for a senior coalition. There is a large range of seniors from the vulnerable fragile seniors to those who are very active and independent. Many seniors in the community do not realize what services are available and what they qualify for to meet their needs. Many people do not seek help until they are desperate and then there is sometimes a wait for services to become effective.

There was some discussion on outreach. One suggestion was to train volunteers to go out into the community and do presentations in order to reach out to seniors. This outreach could also potentially be included in the planning study. Churches should be made aware of what programs are available so seniors in their congregations participate if interested. Information could possibly be added to the church bulletins or information boards. The "Gazette" is willing to do a series of articles. Outreach should also be focused to the families of seniors. Sometimes the family members are the ones making pertinent decisions. Information needs to be out there and available all the time. The DoA has information available on the county website. There are some limitations on this website. There was a suggestion that the CoA have a website. This would be a time consuming venture. A majority of the older seniors would not be able to navigate a website. There are monthly workshops at the Dept of Aging for Medicare and supplement plan information.

Discussion concerning creation of a CoA guest policy, Louise Lynch – It was suggested that there is a need for a guest policy to be developed. There is nothing in the by-laws regarding guest participation. The question is; are guests allowed to participate or just attend? There is limited time for the monthly meeting and it can be time consuming to explain issues to periodic guests. The suggestion was for invited guests to participate during the meeting and drop in guests will be asked to hold questions until the end of the meeting. Guests could be invited to sit in a designated area. This will be explained at the beginning of any meeting with drop in guests.

VIII. Partners in Care, Diane Julian – There is nothing to report at this time.

Nominating, Diane Julian – There was a nomination email that was sent out to all members. Diane thanked everyone who was able to participate in this undertaking. Louise and Millard were both recommended for renewal of membership to the CoA. There was also an email regarding the nomination of Chair and Vice Chair. The agreed slate for these positions will be RaeAnn Butler as Chair and Louise Lynch as Vice Chair. This slate will be voted on in January.

Friends of Meals on Wheels, Louise Lynch – Louise has received interest from the SAR, Inc organization who would like to sponsor a fundraiser for the MoW program. There is a plan to do a silent auction. Louise will keep everyone posted.

Citizens Care and Rehab, Millard Haines – There was a recent contract awarded for management of these facilities. This has many people worried that this is just a precursor to privatization. This is just a one year contract at this time. Some of the previous management team have left for various reasons. The hope is that the facility will remain county owned. The expectation is that the new management will be able to save or make money. There have been billing issues and issues of uncollected revenues. The concern is that beds for truly indigent citizens will be replaced with beds for private pay persons. Millard has requested that the CoA been able to tour the new facilities.

USM, Ginny Skelley – Ginny distributed portions of the most recent USM newsletter. There is always an invitation to join as an individual member. Membership includes a ticket to the Annapolis forum, a copy of the newsletter, and voting privileges. The forum will be on January 24. Carpooling from Frederick may be available if there are not enough for use of the DoA van. Contact Louise if you are interested in carpooling. Ginny also distributed MOLST informational cards from the meeting.

Adult Public Disabled Review Board, RaeAnn Butler – This group met earlier this month and will meet again next year.

Director, Carolyn True – Carolyn distributed the monthly report for November and a fiscal report ending September, 2011. The state is forming a workgroup to review allocations that each jurisdiction receives for Guardianship. Some counties may see a decrease or an increase depending on their client load.

Carolyn thanked the CoA members who volunteered their time to help with the MC-D open enrollment. Staff and volunteers were able to assist 743 individuals with drug plan reviews. There will be a follow-up

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meeting within the department to review how this season went and what processes could be put in place to be more efficient for next year.

Maryland Dept of Aging Secretary Gloria G. Lawlah will be presenting to the BoCC on December 20th at 10:00am. Members of the CoA are encouraged to attend. She is presenting at Carolyn's request. She will be speaking about aging and long term care issues.

The Thurmont Senior Center building is currently undergoing renovations. They are meeting at a local restaurant. They have requested that Steve Stoyke, LPN at the Dept of Aging, resume making monthly presentations. Steve is very busy with MOW home visits. He will continue with quarterly visits to the TSC as he does with other local senior communities. The Town of Thurmont is still looking for funding for the senior center needs.

IX. Announcements, All – There will be a public hearing on January 3, 2012 at 10:00 regarding the senior tax credit. This will be in Winchester Hall.

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:
January 24, 2012, USM Legislative Forum, Annapolis, MD

January 31, 2012, Commission on Aging Executive Committee meeting, 1:00 at the Frederick Dept of Aging

February 13, 2012 - Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702